

Death distress constructs: A preliminary empirical examination of the Farsi form in nurses: A brief note

Mahboubeh Dadfar¹  | David Lester² 

¹School of Behavioral Sciences and Mental Health-Tehran Institute of Psychiatry, International Campus, School of Public Health, Student Committee of Education and Development Center (EDC), Spiritual Health Research Center, Iran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran

²Stockton University, Galloway, NJ, USA

Correspondence

Mahboubeh Dadfar, School of Behavioral Sciences and Mental Health-Tehran Institute of Psychiatry, International Campus, School of Public Health, Student Committee of Education and Development Center (EDC), Spiritual Health Research Center, Iran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran.
Email: dadfar.m@tak.iums.ac.ir; mahboubehdadfar@yahoo.com

Abstract

Aim: Death distress can increase mental health problems. The aim of the present study was to develop a measure of death distress and evaluate the reliability of this Death Distress Scale-Farsi (DDS-F) among nurses. The hypotheses were that death distress has three components and that the DDS-F would have desirable psychometric properties.

Design: A descriptive cross-sectional study.

Methods: A convenience sample of 106 Iranian nurses from two hospitals at Tehran city, Iran was recruited. They completed the Death Anxiety Scale (DAS), the Death Depression Scale (DDS) and the Death Obsession Scale (DOS).

Results: Cronbach's α for the DDS-F was 0.71. As expected, the DDS-F had three independent components: death obsession, death depression and death anxiety. A principle component analysis with a varimax rotation of the DDS-F items identified three factors accounting for 66.13% of the variance. Factor 1 was labelled "Death Obsession" (31.3% of the variance), Factor 2 was labelled "Death Depression" (21.9% of the variance), and Factor 3 was labelled "Death Anxiety" (12.8% of the variance).

Discussion: Death distress has three components: death obsession, death depression and death anxiety. The DDS-F which measures these has good psychometric properties, and it can be used in hospital settings to assess death distress among Iranian nurses.

KEYWORDS

death anxiety, death depression, death distress, death obsession, Iran, nurses

1 | BACKGROUND

There is a negative attitude towards issues related to death and dying in nurses working in hospitals of Iran (e.g. Arab, Seyed Bagheri, Sayadi, & Heydarpour, 2019; Dadfar & Lester, 2014a; Dadfar, Asgharnejad Farid, Atef Vahid, Lester, & Birashk, 2014; Dadfar, Lester, Asgharnejad Farid, Atef Vahid, & Birashk, 2014; Sharif Nia, Lehto, Ebadi, & Peyrovi, 2016). The death of patients in hospitals is

traumatic for hospital staff since the deaths of their patients lead the staff to think that they have failed in their duty.

However, death education has been shown to be effective in changing the negative attitude towards death in nurses and other hospital staff (Dadfar, Asgharnejad Farid, Lester, Atef Vahid, & Birashk, 2016; Dadfar & Lester, 2014b, 2020; Dadfar, Lester, Asgharnejad Farid, Atef Vahid, & Birashk, 2017; Dadfar, Lester, Atef Vahid, Asgharnejad Farid, & Birashk, 2015; Dadfar, Lester, Birashk,

This is an open access article under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits use, distribution and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

© 2020 The Authors. *Nursing Open* published by John Wiley & Sons Ltd

Asgharnejad Farid, & Atef Vahid, 2016; Iverach, Ross, Menzies, & Menzies, 2014; Macedo, 2019; McClatchey & King, 2015; Menzies, Zuccala, Sharpe, & Dar-Nimrod, 2018; Peters et al., 2013).

Nurses who care for dying patients may experience death distress. Various factors can impact on the level of death distress in nurses (Dadfar & Lester, 2020). One of correlates of death distress is cultural religious spiritual issues (Jong et al., 2018). For example, some findings found among English sample (Maltby & Day, 2000a), Muslim Lebanese (Abdel-Khalek, 1998a), Saudi Arabia sample (Almostadi, 2012) and Iranians (Dadfar, Bahrami, Sheybani Noghabi, & Askari, 2016; Dadfar & Lester, 2017a; Mohammadzadeh, 2015; Mohammadzadeh & Najafi, 2010, 2018).

To screen nurses and other hospital staff for their sensitivity to death and dying and to evaluate death education programmes for hospital staff, it would be useful to have a brief screening instrument to assess their sensitivity to death and dying. Many scales to measure attitudes towards death have been developed, and previous research has indicated that there are three major components: death anxiety, death depression and death obsession. To administer all three Death Anxiety Scale (DAS), Death Depression Scale (DDS), and Death Obsession Scale (DOS) involved a total of 47 items and the goal of the present study was to develop a brief measure of these three components using a brief 9-item scale.

2 | PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION

The aim of the present study was to devise a Death Distress Scale-Farsi (DDS-F) for nurses to measure three components of death distress: anxiety, depression and obsessive thoughts.

3 | METHODS

A convenience sample of 106 Iranian volunteer nurses was selected from different wards of two hospitals in Tehran, Iran: Hazrat-e Rasool General Hospital affiliated with Iran University of Medical Sciences and the Khatom-Al-Anbia General Hospital. Inclusion criteria were as follows: nurses working in the wards and an educational level of bachelor's degree or higher. Exclusion criteria were as follows: having medical diseases and mental disorders and receiving individual or group psychoeducational or psychological interventions. The nurses' participation in the study was voluntary, and anonymity was ensured. The objective of study was explained to the nurses.

3.1 | Measures

3.1.1 | The Death Anxiety Scale

Death Anxiety Scale (DAS; Templer, 1970) has 15 items. It is responded to on a True/False format. The DAS has six reversed scored items (2, 3, 5, 6, 7 and 15). Total scores can range from

0–15. Higher scores indicate more death anxiety. Moderate to high reliability and validity has been reported for the DAS (see Abdel-Khalek, Beshai, & Templer, 1993; Conte, Weiner, & Plutchik, 1982; Dadfar, Lester, & Abdel-Khalek, 2018; Dadfar, Lester, Abdel-Khalek, & Ron, 2018; Durlak, 1982; Gilliland & Templer, 1986; Lester & Castromayor, 1993; Rajabi & Bahrani, 2001; Saggino & Kline, 1996; Soleimani et al., 2016; Soleimani, Pahlevan Sharif, Yaghoobzadeh, Allen, Pahlevan Sharif, Yaghoobzadeh, Allen, & Sharif Nia, 2017; Soleimani, Yaghoobzadeh, Bahrami, Pahlevan Sharif, & Sharif Nia, 2016; Tavakoli & Ahmadzadeh, 2011; Templer, 1970; Tomás-Sábado & Gómez-Benito, 2002; Vargo, 1980; Warren & Chopra, 1979).

3.1.2 | The Death Depression Scale

Death Depression Scale (DDS; Templer, Lavoie, Chalgujian, & Thomas-Dobson, 1990). The DDS has 17 items. Two items (11 and 12) control for an acquiescence response set. The DDS is responded to on two True/False and a five-point Likert formats. In the present study, a 17-items True/False format was used. Total scores can range from 0–17. Higher scores indicate more death depression. High reliability and validity has been reported for the DDS (see Abdel-Khalek, Dadfar, & Lester, in submission; Aghazadeh, Mohammadzadeh, & Rezaie, 2014; Dadfar & Lester, 2017b; Dadfar & Lester, 2020; Dadfar & Lester, in press; Mohammadzadeh, Rezaei, & Aghazadeh, 2016; Rajabi, Begdeli, & Naderi, 2015; Sharif Nia et al., 2017; Templer, Lavoie, Chalgujian, & Thomas-Dobson, 1990; Templer et al., 2002; Tomas-Sabado, Limonero, Templer, & Gómez-Benito, 2005).

3.1.3 | The Death Obsession Scale

Death Obsession Scale (DOS; Abdel-Khalek, 1998). The DOS has 15 items. It is responded to on a five-point Likert-type rating scale ranging No (a), A little (b), A fair amount (c), Much (d) and Very much (e). Total scores can range from 15–75. High reliability and validity has been reported for the DOS (see Abdel-Khalek, 1998, 2000; Abdel-Khalek, Al-Arja, & Abdalla, 2006; Abdel-Khalek & Lester, 2003; Dadfar, Abdel-Khalek, & Lester, 2018; Maltby & Day, 2000b; Mohammadzadeh, Asgharnejad Farid, & Ashouri, 2009; Moripe & Mashegoane, 2013; Rajabi, 2009; Tomas-Sabado & Gomez-Benito, 2003).

3.2 | Data analysis

For determination of the normality of the data and equality of variances, the Kolmogorov–Smirnov test and Levene's test were used, respectively. The data were analysed with descriptive statistics (mean, standard deviations) and a principal component factor analysis to identify the number of factors to be retained. The criterion of eigenvalues greater than or equal to 1.0 was followed, and the varimax orthogonal rotation of axes was adopted. The SPSS/WIN 26.0 program was used.

4 | FINDINGS

Two-thirds (67%) of the sample were 30–49 years old; 95.3% were women; 60.4% had a contractual appointment; 67% had work experience of ≥ 5 years; 87.7% were staff nurses; 78.3% had rotational work shifts; 50.9% had 0–9 patients per shift; and 58% had 0–6 care of end-stage patients in the past 3 month. 29.9% had participation in resuscitation operations in the past 3 month ≥ 5 year.

The mean total score on the DDS-F was 9.62 ± 3.72 . Cronbach's α was 0.71 for the DDS-F, denoting high internal consistency. Cronbach's alphas were 0.55, 0.68 and 0.88 for the three DAS, DDS and DOS subscales, respectively.

The criteria for the factor analysis were evaluated using the Kaiser–Meyer–Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy (KMO) and the Bartlett Test of Sphericity. The KMO was 0.688, indicating the adequacy of the present sample. Bartlett's Test of Sphericity was 296.051 ($df = 36$, $p < .001$), indicating that the factor analysis was justified for the present sample. Factor analyses (principal component extraction with a varimax rotation) of the items from each of the three scale (DAS, DDS and DOS) were carried out and revealed 3–4 factors with eigenvalues greater than one. Three items were chosen from each scale using three criteria: (a) a high loading (>0.50) on the first factor identified, (b) the items loaded on only one factor and (c) an examination of the content of the items. As a results 3 items were chosen from each scale (a total of 9 items) for the DDS-F scale.

These 9 items were gain subjected to the same factor analysis (a principal component extraction with a varimax rotation). Three factors were identified (accounting for 66.13% of the variance), confirming the structure of the DDS-F. Factor 1 (3 items) accounted for 31.3% of the observed variance and was labelled “Death Obsession.” Factor 2 (3 items) accounted for 21.9% of the observed variance and was labelled “Death Depression.” Factor 3 (3 items) accounted for 12.8% of the observed variance and was labelled “Death Anxiety.” There was no item which loaded on two factors (Table 1).

5 | DISCUSSION

The purpose of the present study was to develop a brief screening instrument for death distress to be used for screening nurses and for evaluation death education programs designed to reduce death distress in nurses and other hospital staff. A 9-item scale was developed to measure death anxiety, death depression and death obsession. Three components were identified for death distress by previous researchers (see Mohammadzadeh, Ashouri, Vahedi, & Asgharipour, 2018). The study showed Cronbach's α was 0.71 for the DDS-F as a whole. Researchers can use the total score for the DDS-F or, if they wish, measure each component of death distress separately.

Also, some studies have been found significant associations between different constructs of death distress: death anxiety, death depression and death obsession (see Abdel-Khalek, 2004a, 2004b,

TABLE 1 Factor loadings (≥ 0.50) of the Death Distress Scale-Farsi version (DDS-F) in Iranian nurses

Death Distress Scale-Farsi version (DDS-F) Items	Component		
	1	2	3
1. I am not at all afraid to die. (DAS 5)	0.12	0.14	0.80
2. The thought of death never bothers me. (DAS 7)	0.03	0.01	0.80
3. I feel that the future holds nothing for me to fear. (DAS 15)	−0.13	0.29	0.52
4. Hearing the word death makes me sad. (DDS 2)	0.14	0.78	0.09
5. Passing by cemeteries makes me sad. (DDS 3)	0.07	0.74	0.16
6. I feel sad when I dream of death. (DDS 17)	0.05	0.75	0.10
7. I can't get the notion of death out of my mind. (DOS 3)	0.88	0.02	0.01
8. I am preoccupied by thoughts of death. (DOS 4)	0.91	0.14	0.01
9. I find it greatly difficult to get rid of my thoughts about death. (DOS 5)	0.91	0.12	0.03
Eigen value	2.82	1.96	1.16
% of variance	31.3	21.94	12.85
% of total variance	66.13		

Note: Items of high loadings (> 0.50) are given in bold to more clearly differentiate the factors.

Factor 1 (Items 1, 2 and 3): Death Anxiety.

Factor 2 (Items 4, 5 and 6): Death Depression.

Factor 3 (Items 7, 8 and 9): Death Obsession.

2012; Al-Sabwah & Abdel-Khalek, 2006; Alvarado, Templer, Bresler, & Thomas-Dobson, 1993; Ayyad, 2013; Dadfar, Abdel-Khalek, & Lester, 2017; Dadfar, Abdel-Khalek, Lester, & Atef Vahid, 2017; Dadfar & Bahrami, 2016; Dadfar & Lester, 2015, 2016, 2018; Dadfar, Lester, & Bahrami, 2016; Groebe et al., 2018; Lester, 2003; Shiekhy, Issazadegan, Basharpour, & Maroei Millan, 2013; Tomas-Sabado & Gomez-Benito, 2004, 2005; Tomas-Sabado & Limonero, 2007; Zuccala, Menzies, Hunt, & Abbott, 2019).

For obsession and depression, it is suggested to cut some of items from the DOS and the DDS, because some of them seem more to do with anxiety. The best three items were chosen from the first factor of each of the factor analyses, taking into account content. (e.g. we eliminated the loneliness item 4 from the DDS). Overall, the DAS is not a good scale for the measurement of a death anxiety component of death distress. Maybe for death fear/anxiety, we have chosen the items by content rather than what clusters on the factor analysis since they do not cluster on the factor analysis. Therefore, additional to the DAS, DDS, and DOS, using the Collett-Lester Fear of Death Scale (CLDFS; Collett & Lester, 1969), which has four Your own death, Your own dying, Death of others and Dying of others subscales, is recommended for future studies.

6 | CONCLUSION

The DDS-F was developed to assess death distress with its three components (death anxiety, death depression and death obsession). It has good psychometric properties, and it may be useful in hospital settings to assess death distress among Iranian nurses and other staff and to evaluate death education programmes.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that there is no funding for the study, and they have no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

All authors have agreed on the final version and meet at least one of the following criteria [recommended by the ICMJE (<http://www.icmje.org/recommendations/>): substantial contributions to conception and design, acquisition of data or analysis and interpretation of data; and drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content.

ETHICS APPROVAL

This paper is based on a doctoral thesis in clinical psychology by the senior author. The Research Ethics Committee of Iran University of Medical Sciences approved this study.

ORCID

Mahboubeh Dadfar  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0620-2570>

David Lester  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1357-8672>

REFERENCES

- Abdel-Khalek, A. M. (1998a). Death, anxiety and depression in Lebanese under graduates. *Omega: Journal of Death and Dying*, 37(4), 289–302.
- Abdel-Khalek, A. M. (1998b). The structure and measurement of death obsession. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 24(2), 159–165.
- Abdel-Khalek, A. M. (2000). The Death Obsession Scale. In J. Maltby, C. A. Lewis, & A. Hill (Eds.), *Commissioned reviews of 250 psychological tests*, Vol. 2 (pp. 563–565). Lewiston, NY: The Edwin Mellen Press.
- Abdel-Khalek, A. M. (2004a). A general factor of death distress in seven clinical and non-clinical groups. *Death Studies*, 28(9), 889–898.
- Abdel-Khalek, A. M. (2004b). Death anxiety, death depression and death obsession: a general factor of death distress is evident: a reply. *Psychological Reports*, 94(3 Pt 2), 1212–1214.
- Abdel-Khalek, A. M. (2012). The death distress construct and scale. *Omega: Journal of Death and Dying*, 64(2), 171–184.
- Abdel-Khalek, A. M., Al-Arja, N. S., & Abdalla, T. (2006). Death obsession in Palestinians. *Death Studies*, 30(3), 203–215.
- Abdel-Khalek, A. M., Beshai, J. A., & Templer, D. I. (1993). The structure of Templer's death anxiety scale among Egyptian students. *Psychological Reports*, 72(3), 920–922.
- Abdel-Khalek, A. M., Dadfar, M., & Lester, D. *Death depression in Egyptian clinical and non-clinical groups. Submitted to Illness, Crisis & Loss* (ID ILL-20-0001).
- Abdel-Khalek, A. M., & Lester, D. (2003). Death obsession in Kuwaiti and American college students. *Death Studies*, 27(6), 541–553.
- Aghazadeh, S. E., Mohammadzadeh, A., & Rezaie, A. (2014). Validation of death depression scale (DDS) in university students in 2012. *Journal of Research & Behavioral Sciences*, 12(3), 433–442.
- Almostadi, D. A. (2012). *The relationship between death depression and death anxiety among cancer patients in Saudi Arabia*. Graduate Dissertation. University of sought Florida, USA.
- Al-Sabwah, M. N., & Abdel-Khalek, A. M. (2006). Four year cross-sectional comparison of death distress among nursing college students. *Omega: Journal of Death and Dying*, 52(3), 237–248.
- Alvarado, K. A., Templer, D. I., Bresler, C., & Thomas-Dobson, S. (1993). Are death anxiety and death depression distinct entities? *OMEGA: Journal of Death and Dying*, 26(2), 113–118.
- Arab, M., Seyed Bagheri, S. H., Sayadi, A. R., & Heydarpour, N. (2019). Comparison of death anxiety, death obsession and humor among nurses working in medical-surgical departments and intensive care units. *Archives of Neuroscience*, 6(2), e86398.
- Ayyad, F. (2013). Death distress among two samples of lower and higher stress in health care professionals. *Psychological Reports*, 113(1), 1332–1341.
- Collett, L., & Lester, D. (1969). The fear of death and the fear of dying. *Journal of Psychology*, 72(2), 179–181.
- Conte, H. R., Weiner, M. B., & Plutchik, R. (1982). Measuring death anxiety: Conceptual, psychometric and factor-analytic aspects. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 43(4), 775–785.
- Dadfar, M., Abdel-Khalek, A. M., & Lester, D. (2017). Psychometric characteristics of the Reasons for Death Fear Scale with Iranian nurses. *International Journal of Nursing Sciences*, 4(4), 384–388.
- Dadfar, M., Abdel-Khalek, A. M., & Lester, D. (2018a). Validation of the Farsi version of Death Obsession Scale with nurses. *International Journal of Nursing Sciences*, 5(2), 186–192.
- Dadfar, M., Abdel-Khalek, A. M., Lester, D., & Atef Vahid, M. K. (2017). The psychometric parameters of the Farsi form of the Arabic Scale of Death Anxiety. *The Scientific World Journal*, 2017, 7468217, 8 pages.
- Dadfar, M., Asgharnejad Farid, A. A., Atef Vahid, M. K., Lester, D., & Birashk, B. (2014). Reasons for fearing death in Iranian nurses. *Global Journal on Advances in Pure & Applied Sciences*, 4, 335–341.
- Dadfar, M., Asgharnejad Farid, A. A., Lester, D., Atef Vahid, M. K., & Birashk, B. (2016). Effectiveness of death education program by methods of didactic, experimental and 8A model on the reduction of death distress among nurses. *International Journal of Medical Research & Health Sciences*, 5(7), 60–71.
- Dadfar, M., & Bahrami, F. (2016). Reliability and factor structure of the Farsi version of the Arabic Scale of Death Anxiety in an Iranian middle-aged sample. *The Scientific World Journal*, 2016, 9457041, 5 pages.
- Dadfar, M., Bahrami, F., Sheybani Noghabi, F., & Askari, M. (2016). Relationship between religious spiritual well-being and death anxiety in Iranian elders. *International Journal of Medical Research & Health Sciences*, 5(6), 283–287.
- Dadfar, M., & Lester, D. (in press). *The Death Depression Scale: Description and Applications* In Victor R. Preedy et al., In Victor R. Preedy publishing.
- Dadfar, M., & Lester, D. (2014a). Fear of death in Iranian nurses. *Shefaye Khatam*, 2(S1), 86.
- Dadfar, M., & Lester, D. (2014b). *Death education program: A practical guide for healthcare professionals*. Tehran, Iran: Mir-Mah Publications.
- Dadfar, M., & Lester, D. (2015). Death concern and death obsession in Iranian nurses. *Psychological Reports*, 116(3), 704–709.
- Dadfar, M., & Lester, D. (2016). The reliability, validity and factorial structure of the Collett-Lester Fear of Death Scale in a sample of Iranian nurses. *International Journal of Medical Research & Health Sciences*, 5(Issue 7S), 306–317.
- Dadfar, M., & Lester, D. (2017a). Religiosity, spirituality and death anxiety. *Austin Journal of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences*, 4(1), 1061
- Dadfar, M., & Lester, D. (2017b). Cronbach's α reliability, concurrent validity and factorial structure of the Death Depression Scale in an

- Iranian hospital staff sample. *International Journal of Nursing Sciences*, 4(2), 135–141.
- Dadfar, M., & Lester, D. (2018). The Farsi translation, reliability and validity of the Death Concern Scale. *Trends in Psychiatry and Psychotherapy*, 40(2), 114–125.
- Dadfar, M., & Lester, D. (2020). The effectiveness of 8A model death education on the reduction of death depression: A preliminary study. *Nursing Open*, 7(1), 294–298.
- Dadfar, M., Lester, D., & Abdel-Khalek, A. M. (2018). *Validity and reliability of the Farsi version of the Death Anxiety Scale with nurses*. Illness, Crisis & Loss, First Published November 14, 2018.
- Dadfar, M., Lester, D., Abdel-Khalek, A. M., & Ron, P. (2018). *Death anxiety in Muslim Iranians: The comparison between youths, middle adults and late adults*. Illness, Crisis & Loss, <https://doi.org/10.1177/1054137318790080> [First Published August 19, 2018]
- Dadfar, M., Lester, D., Asgharnejad Farid, A. A., Atef Vahid, M. K., & Birashk, B. (2014). Death depression in Iranian nurses. *Advances in Environmental Biology*, 8(13), 218–222.
- Dadfar, M., Lester, D., Asgharnejad Farid, A. A., Atef Vahid, M. K., & Birashk, B. (2017). 8A conceptual model for death education. *Shefaye Khatam*, 5(4), 98–109.
- Dadfar, M., Lester, D., Atef Vahid, M. K., Asgharnejad Farid, A. A., & Birashk, B. (2015). *Death distress in nurses: Psychoeducational interventions*. Tehran, Iran: Mir-Mah Publications.
- Dadfar, M., Lester, D., & Bahrami, F. (2016). Death anxiety, reliability, validity and factorial structure of the Farsi Form of the Arabic Scale of Death Anxiety in Iranian old-aged individuals. *Journal of Aging Research*, 2016, 2906857, 7 pages.
- Dadfar, M., Lester, D., Birashk, B., Asgharnejad Farid, A. A., & Atef Vahid, M. K. (2016). The effectiveness of didactic approach on the reduction of death obsession. *Shefaye Khatam*, 4(S1), 29.
- Durlak, J. A. (1982). Using the Templer Scale to assess "death anxiety:" a cautionary note. *Psychological Reports*, 50(3 Pt 2), 1257–1258.
- Gilliland, C., & Templer, D. I. (1986). Relationship of Death Anxiety Scale factors to subjective states. *Omega: Journal of Death and Dying*, 16(2), 155–167.
- Groebe, B., Strupp, J., Eisenmann, Y., Schmidt, H., Schlomann, A., Rietz, C., & Voltz, R. (2018). Measuring attitudes towards the dying process: A systematic review of tools. *Palliative Medicine*, 32(4), 815–837.
- Iverach, L., Ross, G., Menzies, R. E., & Menzies, R. E. (2014). Death anxiety and its role in psychopathology: Reviewing the status of a trans-diagnostic construct. *Clinical Psychology Review*, 34(7), 580–593.
- Jong, J., Ross, R., Philip, T., Chang, S. H., Simons, N., & Halberstadt, J. (2018). The religious correlates of death anxiety: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Religion, Brain & Behavior*, 1(8), 4–20.
- Lester, D. (2003). Death anxiety, death depression and death obsession. *Psychological Reports*, 93(3 Pt 1), 695–696.
- Lester, D., & Castromayor, I. (1993). The construct validity of Templer's death anxiety scale in Filipino students. *Journal of Social Psychology*, 133(1), 113–114.
- Macedo, J. C. (2019). An approach to death education. *MOJ Gerontology & Geriatrics*, 4(6), 276–278.
- Maltby, J., & Day, L. (2000a). Religious orientation and death obsession. *The Journal of Genetic Psychology*, 161(1), 122–124.
- Maltby, J., & Day, L. (2000b). The reliability and validity of the Death Obsession Scale among English university and adult samples. *Personality Individual Differences*, 28(4), 695–700.
- McClatchey, I. S., & King, S. (2015). The impact of death education on fear of death and death anxiety among human services students. *Omega: Journal of Death and Dying*, 71(4), 343–361.
- Menzies, R. E., Zuccala, M., Sharpe, L., & Dar-Nimrod, I. (2018). The effects of psychosocial interventions on death anxiety: A meta-analysis and systematic review of randomized controlled trials. *Journal of Anxiety Disorders*, 59, 64–73.
- Mohammadzadeh, A. (2015). Investigating the relationships between death obsession, religious coping, acting on religious beliefs and attachment to god. *Iranian Journal of Psychiatry and Clinical Psychology*, 21(3), 236–243.
- Mohammadzadeh, A., Asgharnejad Farid, A. A., & Ashouri, A. (2009). Factor structure, validity and credibility of Death Obsession Scale. *Journal Cognitive Science*, 11(1), 1–7.
- Mohammadzadeh, A., Ashouri, A., Vahedi, M., & Asgharipour, N. (2018). Death distress dimensions: Death anxiety, death depression and death obsession. *Journal of Fundamentals of Mental Health*, 20(6), 395–404.
- Mohammadzadeh, A., & Najafi, M. (2010). The prediction of death obsession according to religiosity orientations: Role of sex. *Journal of Clinical Psychology*, 2(3), 65–72.
- Mohammadzadeh, A., & Najafi, M. (2018). The comparison of death anxiety, obsession and depression between Muslim population with positive and negative religious coping. *Journal of Religion and Health*, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10943-018-0679-y>. [Epub ahead of print]
- Mohammadzadeh, A., Rezaei, A., & Aghazadeh, S. E. (2016). Validation of Likert form Death Depression Scale in a university students samples. *Journal of Ilam University of Medical Sciences*, 24(1), 89–97.
- Moripe, S., & Mashegoane, S. (2013). *Structure of the Death Obsession Scale among South African University students*. Athens: ATINER'S Conference Paper Series, No: PSY2013- 0503.
- Peters, L., Cant, R., Payne, S., O'Connor, M., McDermott, F., Hood, K., ... Shimoinaba, K. (2013). How death anxiety impacts nurses' caring for patients at the end of life: A review of literature. *Open Nursing Journal*, 7, 14–21.
- Rajabi, G. H. (2009). The psychometric properties of Death Obsession Scale in freshman undergraduate students. *Journal of Applied Sciences*, 9(2), 360–365.
- Rajabi, G. H., & Bahrani, M. (2001). Factor analysis of Death Anxiety Scale. *Journal of Psychology*, 5(4), 331–344.
- Rajabi, G. R., Begdeli, Z., & Naderi, Z. (2015). Psychometric properties of the Persian version of Death Depression Scale among nurses. *Death Studies*, 39(6), 342–346.
- Saggino, A., & Kline, P. (1996). Item factor analysis of the Italian version of the Death Anxiety Scale. *Journal of Clinical Psychology*, 52(3), 329–333.
- Sharif Nia, H., Lehto, R. H., Ebadi, A., & Peyrovi, H. (2016). Death anxiety among nurses and health care professionals: A review article. *International Journal Community Based Nursing Midwifery*, 4(1), 2–10.
- Sharif Nia, H., Pahlevan Sharif, S., Lehto, R. H., Allen, K. A., Goudarzian, A. H., Yaghoobzadeh, A., & Soleimani, M. A. (2017). Psychometric evaluation of Persian version of the Death Depression Scale in Iranian patients with acute myocardial Infarction. *Iranian Journal of Psychiatry*, 12(3), 172–181.
- Shiekh, S., Issazadegan, A., Basharpour, S., & Maroei Millan, F. (2013). The relationship between death obsession and death anxiety with hope among the nursing students of Urmia Medical Sciences University. *Journal of Urmia Nursing and Midwifery Faculty*, 11(6), 410–418.
- Soleimani, M. A., Bahrami, N., Yaghoobzadeh, A., Banihashemi, H., Sharif Nia, H., & Haghdost, A. A. (2016). Validity and reliability of the Persian version of Templer's Death Anxiety Scale in family caregivers of cancer patients. *Iranian Journal of Nursing and Midwifery Research*, 21(3), 284–290.
- Soleimani, M. A., Pahlevan Sharif, S., Yaghoobzadeh, A., Allen, K. A., & Sharif Nia, H. (2017). An examination of psychometric characteristics and factor structure of death anxiety scale within a sample of Iranian patients with heart disease. *International Journal of Epidemiologic Research*, 4(4), 260–266.
- Soleimani, M. A., Yaghoobzadeh, A., Bahrami, N., Pahlevan Sharif, S., & Sharif Nia, H. (2016). Psychometric evaluation of the Persian version of the Templer's Death Anxiety Scale in cancer patients. *Death Studies*, 40(9), 547–557.

- Tavakoli, M. A., & Ahmadzadeh, B. (2011). Investigation of validity and reliability of Templer Death Anxiety Scale. *Thought & Behavior in Clinical Psychology*, 6(21), 72–80.
- Templer, D. I. (1970). The construction and validation of a Death Anxiety Scale. *Journal of General Psychology*, 82(2d, Half), 165–177.
- Templer, D. I., Harville, M., Hutton, S., Underwood, R., Tomeo, M., Russell, M., ... Ankawa, H. (2002). Death Depression Scale- Revised. *Omega: Journal of Death and Dying*, 44(2), 105–112.
- Templer, D. I., Lavoie, M., Chalgujian, H., & Thomas-Dobson, S. (1990). The measurement of death depression. *Journal Clinical Psychology*, 46(6), 834–839.
- Tomás-Sábado, J., & Gómez-Benito, J. (2002). Psychometric properties of the Spanish form of Templer's Death anxiety scale. *Psychological Reports*, 91(3 Pt 2), 1116–1120.
- Tomas-Sabado, J., & Gomez-Benito, J. (2003). Psychometric properties of the Spanish adaptation of the Death Obsession Scale. (DOS). *Omega: Journal of Death and Dying*, 46(3), 263–272.
- Tomas-Sabado, J., & Gomez-Benito, J. (2004). Death anxiety and death obsession in Spanish students. *Perceptual and Motor Skills*, 98(1), 31–34.
- Tomás-Sábado, J., & Gómez-Benito, J. (2005). Death anxiety and death depression in Spanish nurses. *Psychological Reports*, 97, 21–24.
- Tomas-Sabado, J., & Limonero, J. T. (2007). Death depression and death obsession: Are they different constructs? *Psychological Reports*, 100(3 Pt 1), 755–758.
- Tomas-Sabado, J., Limonero, J. T., Templer, D. I., & Gómez-Benito, J. (2005). The death depression scale-revised. Preliminary empirical validation of the Spanish form. *Omega: Journal of Death and Dying*, 50(1), 43–52.
- Vargo, M. (1980). Relationship between the Templer death anxiety scale and the Collett-lester fear of death scale. *Psychological Reports*, 46(2), 561–562.
- Warren, W. G., & Chopra, P. N. (1979). Some reliability and validity considerations on Australian data from the Death Anxiety Scale. *Omega: Journal of Death and Dying*, 9(3), 293–299.
- Zuccala, M., Menzies, R. E., Hunt, C. J., & Abbott, M. J. (2019). A systematic review of the psychometric properties of death anxiety self-report measures. *Death Studies*, <https://doi.org/10.1080/07481187.2019.1699203>

How to cite this article: Dadfar M, Lester D. Death distress constructs: A preliminary empirical examination of the Farsi form in nurses: A brief note. *Nursing Open*. 2020;7:1026–1031. <https://doi.org/10.1002/nop2.484>